

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Dennis L. Fish, District No. 5

The COMMITTEE ON FINANCE met on Monday, June 9, 2003, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 8:50 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Dennis L. Fish, Council Member District No. 5, Chairman; Mr. Milton Farley, Council Member District No. 1; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2; Mr. William E. Crosby, Council Member District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Council Member District No. 4; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Council Member District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Council Member District No. 7; Mr. Steve C. Davis, Councilmember District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio; Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney; and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk of County Council.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the entrance of the County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina and the Berkeley County Library, and mailed to the newspaper, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Chairman Fish called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Fish asked for approval of minutes from the Committee on Finance meetings held on May 12, 2003 and May 19, 2003.

It was moved by Councilmember Spooner and seconded by Councilmember Crosby to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

A. Mary P. Brown, Berkeley County Clerk of Court, Re: Additional budget requests.
Ms. Brown addressed the Committee and stated she had corresponded with Mr. Rozier regarding budget items, and they are as follows:

41210-5104 – Temporary Employees (Bailiffs): Ms. Brown indicated that she has no control over the terms of court. The next budget year regular court, which had been cut back due to State budget cuts, has been reassigned to Berkeley County. The amount granted on the budget will not cover the number of courts that will be held in the next fiscal year.

41210-5530 – Juror and Witness: Mr. Brown requested \$80,000; \$41,000 was recommended. This covers the \$10 per day and \$.10 per mile for the jurors for Common Pleas and General Session terms of Court. Due to the increased terms of court the required amount would be increased.

41210-5542 – Special Contracts: Ms. Brown explained she would like Common Pleas and General Session on the Internet for the public. Also, to allow for direct deposits for child support; there are numerous stop payments due to a change of residence of the recipients.

Employees: Mr. Brown asked last year and again this year for employees. There is an employee needed for Family Court to close cases.

Mr. Rozier asked if Judges had been directed to start traveling again?

Mrs. Brown responded in the positive and stated she has double terms scheduled.

Mr. Rozier indicated to the Committee that he recommends they wait and use contingency to fund the request as needed. The only place to get the funds from would be contingency.

Councilmember Spooner stated there were some changes that will be made to the Clerk of Courts budget and she would like this to be taken as information until that time.

B. Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the prosecution of condemnation actions for all local C-Fund paving projects as designated by the Berkeley County Transportation Committee.

Mr. Rozier explained that the word “all” should not be recognized in the title because not all C-Fund Paving Projects are considered under this Resolution. It pertains mainly to heirs’ property.

Mr. Frank Carson, County Engineer, indicated that there often is not a response to correspondence regarding rights of way to pave roads. He explained that the C-Funds process, historically the Farm to Market roads, were handled by the Legislative Delegation and the South Carolina Department of Transportation. When the law changed and the County Transportation Committees originated, DOT still handled the condemnations. In 1994-1995 the Counties became responsible for this.

Councilmember Steve Davis asked if Tobacco Road was one of the Roads in reference?

Mr. Carson stated that Tobacco Road was one of the areas that had less than fifty percent (50%) response, so it was deleted from consideration for paving, but due to the maintenance problems the Committee did approve the County to roc the road more extensively using C-Funds.

It was moved by Councilmember Pinckney and seconded by Councilmember Crosby to send the Resolution as presented forward, with the deletion of the word “all”. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

C. Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the purchase of property located at the crossroads of Highway 52 and By-Pass 52, more commonly known as the K-Mart Building and more particularly identified as TMS #142-12-03-036 and TMS #142-12-03-038, in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and authorizing the County Supervisor to execute all necessary documents to effect the transfer of said property.

Mr. Rozier indicated the asking price for the property was \$2.5 Million. The County has negotiated a price of \$1,950,000, provided the closing is by June 30, 2003. This will be paid for with a Bond Issue. There will be available space for a library. The savings from building a new County Office Building and a new library would be between \$5-6 Million.

It was moved by Councilmember Charles Davis and seconded by Councilmember Farley to send the Resolution as presented forward. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

D. Consideration of a Resolution to authorize the County Supervisor to express the intention of the County Council of Berkeley County to reimburse the County for certain costs for acquisition of land, building and other capital expenditures relating to the issuance of tax-exempt bonds.

It was moved by Councilmember Spooner and seconded by Councilmember Mims to send the Resolution as presented forward. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

E. Consideration prior to First Reading of an Ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of General Obligation Refunding and Improvement Bonds of 2003 of Berkeley County, South Carolina in the principal amount of not exceeding twenty-two million dollars (\$22,000,000); to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters relating thereto.

It was moved by Councilmember Pinckney and seconded by Councilmember Farley to send the Ordinance for the General Obligation Refunding and Improvement Bonds of 2003 forward for First Reading. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

F. Review prior to Third Reading of the following:

1. Bill No. 03-24, An Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2004, for the Devon Forest Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Devon Forest Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Steve Davis to send Bill No. 03-24 forward for Third Reading. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

2. Bill No. 03-25, An Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2004, for the Pimlico Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Pimlico Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

Councilmember Spooner indicated there were some situations that needed to be resolved before this was passed for third reading but explained it could certainly go forward to Public Hearing.

It was moved by Councilmember Spooner and seconded by Councilmember Crosby to send Bill No. 03-25 forward for Third Reading. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

3. Bill No. 03-26, An Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2004, for the Sangaree Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Sangaree Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

It was moved by Councilmember Charles Davis and seconded by Councilmember Spooner to send Bill No. 03-26 forward for Third Reading. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

4. Bill No. 03-27, An Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2004, for the Tall Pines Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Tall Pines Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

It was moved by Councilmember Charles Davis and seconded by Councilmember Pinckney to send Bill No. 03-27 forward for Third Reading. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

5. Bill No. 03-28, An Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2004, for the operational budget of the Berkeley County Special Fire Tax District within the unincorporated portions of Berkeley County; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Special Fire Tax District during the fiscal year.

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Farley to send Bill No. 03-28 forward for Third Reading. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

6. Bill No. 03-29, An Ordinance providing appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2004, for Berkeley County; to provide for levy of taxes on all taxable property in Berkeley County for all county purposes; to provide for the expenditures of said taxes and other revenues coming into the county for the fiscal year.

MAIN MOTION

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Farley to send Bill No. 03-29 forward for Third Reading.

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Supervisor Rozier offered the following amendment to Bill No 03-29:

	Additions	Deletions
1) Clerk of Court	\$ 6,599.00	
Maintenance Service Contracts and Small Equipment.		
2) Sheriff's Department	\$17,072.00	
Maintenance Service Contracts; Books & Periodicals		
3) Coroner's Department		(\$1,942.00)
Personnel		
4) Roads and Bridges	\$30,599.00	
Motor Grader Operator		
5) Purchasing		(\$ 113.00)
Personnel		
6) Planning and Zoning		(\$44,040.00)
Personnel		
7) Finance		(\$8,175.00)
Auditing		

Total change to the budget is zero.

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Farley to amend Bill No. 03-29 as presented.

Supervisor Rozier also reported \$10,907.00 DSS funds had been added but those funds were outside of the budget.

The motion passed by majority voice vote of the Committee with Councilmember Steve Davis voting "Nay".

AMENDMENT #2

Councilmember Spooner moved to amend Bill No. 03-29 to designate from the County Fund line item \$195,000.00 to be divided between eight fire departments;

<u>Alvin</u>	<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>
<u>Bonneau</u>	<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>
<u>Forty-One</u>	<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>
<u>Huger</u>	<u>\$ 20,000.00</u>

Jamestown Rural	\$ 25,000.00
Lebanon	\$ 25,000.00
LongRidge	\$ 25,000.00
Shulerville-Honeyhill	\$ 25,000.00

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Steve Davis.

Councilmember Pinckney indicated this was in lieu of the 3.5 mil increase and certainly deemed it appropriate to enable the smaller departments to perform their responsibilities.

The motion to amend Bill No. 03-29 as presented passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The motion to send Bill No. 03-29, as amended, forward for Third Reading passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Councilmember Spooner moved to amend Bill No. 03-28 to provide for expenditures in the amount of \$461,000 as well as revenues in the amount of \$461,000 from additional fire fees and to amend Ordinance No. 96-7-35 to designate the uniform service charges in the Special Tax District.

Fire Fees on Individual Residences	\$ 60.00
Fire Fees on Commercial and Industrial:	
1. Up to 3,000 Sq. Ft.	\$ 60.00
2. 3,001 to 5,000 Sq. Ft.	\$ 90.00
3. 5,001 to 10,000 Sq. Ft.	\$ 180.00
4. 10,001 to 20,000 Sq. Ft.	\$ 240.00
5. 20,001 to 580,000 Sq. Ft.	\$ 480.00 plus \$ 12.00
for each additional 1,000 Sq. Ft. up to 580,000 Sq. Ft., not to exceed \$ 6,720.00 and excess of 1,000,001, a cap of \$ 8,000.00	

Fire Fees on Open Land:	
1 Acre or less	\$2.00
1 + to 5 Acres	4.00
5+ to 15 Acres	5.00
15+ to 35 Acres	6.00
35+ to 70 Acres	8.00
70+ to 100 Acres	10.00
100+ to 250 Acres	14.00
250+ to 500 Acres	20.00
500+ Capped	25.00

Councilmember Spooner explained that of the additional \$10.00 to be collected from the individual residences \$2.00 would be added to the \$50.00 presently collected for a total of \$52.00 to stay in the district. After the funds are deducted to make the other fire departments

whole, the remaining amount (from the additional \$8.00) would be placed in a fund that the Fire Board would decide where best, it could be used for equipment or capital.

Councilmember Judy Mims seconded the motion to amend Bill No. 03-28 as presented and to amend Ordinance No. 96-7-35 to designate the uniform service charges in the Special Tax District.

Councilmember Steve Davis asked how long the additional fees would continue?

Councilmember Fish indicated that decision had not been made. After two years the numbers would be reevaluated.

Councilmember Crosby further explained that Council should be mindful that a sunset on the additional fees should be contemplated. As additional growth occurs the total amount of fees would increase tremendously. Within a few years a large amount of money would have to be managed.

Mr. Rembert Wrenn confirmed that \$52.00 per residence would stay in the district of the Rural Fire Departments.

A representative from the Fire Tax Advisory Board indicated that all of these suggestions were new to the Board. He also asked why the Board was necessary if they were not going to be informed of any changes? He further stated \$461,000 would not take care of all of the fire departments and Council was just opening a can of worms.

Councilmember Fish explained that Council had asked for suggestions and the only suggestion was 3.5 mil and that was not acceptable by Council and an alternative has been provided. The total dollar amount would be just about the same.

Councilmember Spooner reminded the Advisory Board member that grants would be applied for again this year, which would mean additional funds to the departments. And reminded the group that \$100,000 goes to the Training Center and after a year or two, that money would be available.

The motion to amend Bill No. 03-28 as presented and amend Ordinance No. 96-7-35 to designate the uniform service charges in the Special Tax District passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Committee on Public Works and Purchasing
Councilmember Caldwell Pinckney, Chairman

On recommendation of the Committee, Councilmember Pinckney moved to transfer \$39,243.00 from contingency to Mosquito Abatement. (No Second required) The motion passed

by unanimous voice vote of the Committee. Councilmember Pinckney reported that concluded his report.

Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Councilmember Judy Mims, Chairman

On recommendation of the Committee, Councilmember Mims moved to transfer from Contingency: \$14,000.00 to the Detention Center for food, \$12,000.00 to the Detention Center for supplies, \$15,000.00 to the Detention Center for special contracts. (No Second required) The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee. Councilmember Mims reported that concluded her report.

Councilmember Crosby moved and Councilmember Steve Davis seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The meeting of the Committee on Finance adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

July 16, 2003
Date Approved

ADDENDUM

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Dennis L. Fish, District No. 5

Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1
Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., District No. 7
Mr. Steve C. Davis, District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

A Meeting of the COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on Monday June 9, 2003, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, following the meeting of the Committee on Land Use, the Committee on Public Works and Purchasing, the Committee on Community Services, the Committee on Planning and Development, the Committee on Justice and Public Safety and Public Hearings at 6:00 pm.

AGENDA

ADD:

G. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Council Member Judy C. Mims, Chairman
Sheriff's Department: Additional Funds.

H. Presentation of Fire Fee Budget.

June 5, 2003
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk of County Council

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AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 12, 2003
May 19, 2003

- A. Mary P. Brown, Berkeley County Clerk of Court, Re: Additional budget requests.
- B. Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the prosecution of condemnation actions for all local C-Fund paving projects as designated by the Berkeley County Transportation Committee.
- C. Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the purchase of property located at the crossroads of Highway 52 and By-Pass 52, more commonly known as the K-Mart Building and more particularly identified as TMS #142-12-03-036 and TMS #142-12-03-038, in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and authorizing the County Supervisor to execute all necessary documents to effect the transfer of said property.
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G. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Committee on Public Works and Purchasing
Council Member Caldwell Pinckney, Chairman
Mosquito Abatement – Additional funds for overtime.

June 4, 2003
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk of County Council